Reviewer's report

Title: Nutritional Status and Associated Factors Among High School Adolescents in Debre Tabor Town, South Gondar Zone, Northcentral Ethiopia

Version: 0 Date: 12 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Sally Mackay

Reviewer's report:

It is important to public cross-sectional data on nutrition status as it will be useful to other researchers. The current paper needs some minor revisions to improve the English. There needs to be more information on some aspects of the methods (24 hour recall). The conclusion in the abstract and the overall conclusion do not meet the results and discussion. More thought needs to be provided as to how the factors affecting stunting and thinness can be addressed.

Abstract
Line 40, 41: Spell p-value consistently
Conclusion: The first two sentences of the conclusion are a repeat of the last two sentences of the results without the statistics. The conclusion needs to provide some interpretation of the results - what does this mean? Are counselling and education sufficient to prevent stunting or thinness or are there other factors such as lack of access, availability and affordability of food that can affect nutrition status? The conclusion needs to be rewritten.

Background: The background could be reduced in words by writing more concisely.
57: As reported
58: accounts for 18%
68: diseases
69: are a nutritionally
70: But the progress to minimise malnutrition
92,93: revealed a prevalence of 20.2% etc
93-95: It is not clear what the sentence means, please rewrite

Methods:
107: Delete 'far'
Is all the detail about the town required?
120: Instead of 'attending their education' write 'attending high school'
138, 139: Do you mean a health condition related to socio-demographic status, or were these two indicators?
144: materials and equipment were always checked
146: delete 'faced'
Please provide more information on the 24 hour recall in the methods.
150: obtain
151, 152: After the pretest, corrections were made to the questionnaire.
153: Do you mean 'tapes'?
Results:
Why did you only recruit students in the late age groups when the introduction discussed a wider age range.
190: Try not to use 'them' - state what you mean, e.g. participants. Define 'teff'
195: Report height and weight separately for males and females
199: is risk the right word? Just say that none of the participants were classified as overweight or obese
201: participants, not them
208: Aren't all the participants late age?

Discussion
243: serious, not series
265: Difference not deference
271: field, not filed
278: Do you mean there is insufficient food for the household. If there is enough available food then why would sharing compromise adequate intake. Or do adolescents get less of a share. Further explanation is required.
283: Is a study from India relevant?
286-290: This sentence is long and not clear. Rewrite so the key points are obvious
293: Are adolescents who live away from their families more likely to be rural? Explain more about the monthly ration or subsistence

Conclusion
This statement is not in the discussion. How do you know if they are already receiving education or counselling? If lack of food is the issue or living away from home how will they overcome this? The discussion needs to focus on how the study results that can be used to prevent stunting and thinness drawing on evidence-based interventions. The conclusion needs to match the discussion.

Abbreviations:
307: Was MUAC reported in the study?

339: Replace made with wrote

References
Please check the references thoroughly as there are some inconsistencies in formatting. Check that the journal name is on the reference and that websites have 'available from' The last two references seem to be missing information.

Tables: It would be interesting to have the dietary diversity results. Can these be added to table 1.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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